St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS



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Heaven, Purgatory and the Communion of Saints

We begin this month of November by turning our thoughts towards eternity. Today, 1st November, is **All Saints Day** when we **rejoice in the glory of Heaven**. And Monday 2nd November is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, or **All Souls Day**, when we **pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory**.

So today, the Church rejoices in the countless souls who have attained Heaven and now behold God face to face. Some are **canonised saints**, whose lives are held up as examples for us to follow, while countless others are known to God alone. **They fought the good fight and persevered to the end, and they have now received their crown of glory**. And we can be confident that many of our deceased family members, and past clergy and parishioners of St Mary's are among them. And this will hopefully inspire us. God didn't create us to make a comfortable life for ourselves here on earth. As the Catechism teaches us, **"God made me to know Him, love Him and serve Him in this life, and to be happy with Him forever in the next."** The saints understood this. They knew that **salvation is the most important thing**, that **sin is our greatest enemy**, and that we need **God's grace** if we are to persevere to the end.

On Monday, and indeed for the **whole of November**, we turn our hearts to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. These are souls who died in God's grace. **Their salvation is guaranteed**, and yet they have to undergo purification before entering the perfect holiness of Heaven, because **nothing defiled can enter the presence of God** (Revelation 21:27). So it is our solemn duty and **an act of great Christian charity to pray for the dead**. And this isn't just a pious custom or an expression of affection for those we have lost. It is a work of **spiritual mercy**, rooted in Sacred Scripture and in the tradition of the Church. In the **Second Book of Maccabees** we read: ***"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins"*** (12:46). The Holy Souls cannot help themselves, and they rely totally upon the charity of the Church

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St Charles Borromeo

Please pray for those who are sick

for those who have recently died:

Barbara Heath
Pasquale Di Lena
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

May Sweetman
Stephen Bowmer
Carmela Sepede
Teresa Brewin
Andrew Slevin
Barbara Morrison
Juana Tinker

PLEASE NOTE
Due to government regulations regarding personal data (UK-GDPR), we are not able to publish name details of Mass intentions for the living in this online version of the newsletter.

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 31st	**Vigil Mass**
6.00pm	For the Parish
Sun 1st	**All Saints (Solemnity)**
9.00am	Stephen Bowmer (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am	Deceased members of the Giorgio & Mancini families
3.00pm	***Blessing of Graves & Rosary, Loughborough Cemetery***
4.00pm	***Italian Mass at the Mausoleum***
Mon 2nd	**All Souls Day**
9.15am	Deceased members of the Castillo family (School Mass)
12.00 noon	Pope's Intentions (Sung Latin)
6.30pm	All the Faithful Departed
Tues 3rd	**St Martin de Porres, Religious**
9.15am	Holy Souls
Weds 4th	**St Charles Borromeo, Bishop**
6.30pm	Nora Slowey (RIP) (Latin)
Thurs 5th	**Feria**
9.15am	Barbara Morrison (RIP, Anniversary)
Fri 6th	**Feria** *First Friday*
6.00-6.25pm	*Confessions*
6.30pm	For our deceased relatives and friends
	Followed by Benediction
Sat 7th	**Saturday Mass of the BVM** *Five First Saturdays Dev'n*
10.00am	Intention for the living
10.30am	*Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm	*with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*
1.00pm	*Wedding*
6.00pm	**Vigil Mass:** Anna Maria & Salvatore & Gino Romano (RIP)
Sun 8th	**32nd Sunday in OT (Remembrance Sunday)**
9.00am	For the Parish
11.15am	Requiem Mass For the Fallen
4.00pm	*Italian Mass*

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Tues 3rd	Bible Study - 7.00pm in the parish library
Thurs 5th	RCIA - 7.00pm in the parish library

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Militant on earth - that's us - because a person can only merit in this life. It would be a terrible thing if through forgetfulness or indifference, we failed to help those we once loved on earth: our deceased parents, relatives, friends and benefactors. They may be in great need of our prayers! **St John Vianney** (1786-1859) once said, **"Consider how that poor soul begs you: Have pity on me! Your prayers, your Masses can deliver me."** And let's not forget the deceased priests who administered the Sacraments to us, or the deceased bishop who confirmed us, and the religious sisters who perhaps taught us. We should never presume they are already in Heaven, but **for the rest of our lives**, commend them to the mercy of Almighty God, and pray fervently for their deliverance from Purgatory. If they don't need it, God will apply it to someone who does. **Masses said for them are the most effective**. Then pray the Rosary and Stations of the Cross for them, and offer your daily sufferings and sacrifices for their release. And let us not forget **Indulgences** (see elsewhere in the newsletter).

This brings us to the beautiful and consoling doctrine of the **Communion of Saints**. The Church is in **three parts**: the faithful here on earth, the souls in Purgatory, and the saints in Heaven, and together they make up the **one Mystical Body of Christ**. We pray ***for*** the Holy Souls, and they pray for us. We pray ***to*** the saints in Heaven and they pray for us. The living and the dead are united with each other, praying for one another. Death does not separate us from the love of Christ. And the souls we help to get to Heaven will be so grateful, they will not rest until they see us safely there too.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Relics of St Gerard Majella: On **Tuesday 10th November,** Fr Royston Price, a Redemptorist missionary from Clapham, London, will be bringing the relics of St Gerard Majella, a Redemptorist saint, to St Mary's. This will consist of an evening Mass at 6.30pm, with the church open for private prayer before the relics beforehand, and an opportunity for individual or family blessings with the relics afterwards. St Gerard is known as the patron saint of mother's, couples trying to conceive and childbirth. Several priests will also be available for confessions before the Mass. We need a full church for this. Please put the date in your diary. *Fr Paul*

First Holy Communion 2027: Completed application forms must be returned by this Sunday **1st November**. Classes begin in the New Year.

This Monday 2nd November is All Souls Day. Masses will be at 9.15am, 12 noon (Sung Latin), and 6.30pm.

SPUC

Our recent cake sale raised around £100. Thank you.

October 27th was the anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act. Since then, over 11 million abortions have taken the lives of innocent children. SPUC is fighting to make abortion unthinkable.

Mature Adults Group monthly meeting, 2nd November, Sacred Heart Church Hall, 2.00pm-3.45pm. All welcome. This month's talk is by Tom McInally on walking The Camino de Santiago in Spain. Usual donation £1. Parking available at Tesco nearby. For more information please talk to Emily after Mass.

Prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Leader: Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.

All: O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.

Leader: Bless our families. Bless our children.

All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

Leader: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Michael

Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Next Sunday 8th November is Remembrance Sunday. The 11.15am Mass will be a Requiem for the fallen service men and women in the First and Second World Wars, and all subsequent military conflicts.

NOVEMBER INDULGENCES FOR THE HOLY SOULS

You may gain a plenary indulgence for the Holy Souls in Purgatory by visiting a cemetery between **1st and 8th November** and praying there for the dead. In addition you should worthily receive Holy Communion (ideally on the same day), make a good sacramental confession within the week before or after, pray one Our Father and Hail Mary for the Pope's monthly intentions and be free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin, otherwise the indulgence is partial. **We will be visiting Loughborough Cemetery for the Rosary and Blessing of Graves this Sunday afternoon, 1st November, meeting in the car park just before 3pm.**

From the Saints

"I have received many favours from the Holy Souls in Purgatory. I recommend devotion to them."

St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)



Thank you for your continued support of the Your Store Food Bank. The next collection from the car park (10.30-11am) will be on **7th November**

The second collection this weekend will be for the Diocesan Hospices. The funds raised from this diocese-wide appeal are used to financially support end-of-life palliative care provided by various local independent hospices operating within the diocesan boundaries.

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £571.22 of which £65 was G/A

Standing orders: £926 @ 30/09 (of which £741 was G/A)

Attendance: 633

Thank you

St Mary's bank account details for online donations

Bank: Lloyds
A/c name: St Mary of Annun Lough RCP
Sort code: 30-95-21
A/c no: 00481028

Alternatively, scan this QR code to donate securely from your phone